



CONGRESSMAN

TJ COX

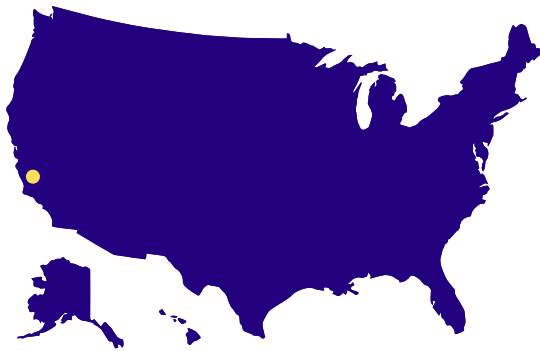
Representing the 21st District of **CALIFORNIA**

My Small Business Bill will require a study on the Office of Rural Affairs

Written in US Code

SECTION 26 OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT (15 U.S.C. 653)

"There is hereby established in the Small Business Administration an Office of Rural Affairs"



60 million people live in rural areas of the United States

The Office of Rural Affairs was created to support Rural Small Businesses - in communities like the Central Valley.
It no longer exists!

In 1988, more than 1 in 4 small business owners lived in rural areas. By 2016, that fell to less than 1 in 6. Despite that decline, the rate of small business employment has remained higher in rural areas than in other areas of the U.S. Congress must do more to support you!

My bill would require the Small Business Administration to submit a report to Congress answering 5 key questions:

1. What is the cost and potential benefit for having an Office of Rural Affairs?
2. On what date was the office dismantled?
3. What was the rationale?
4. Were there ever funds appropriated?
5. What is the cost of establishing an Associate Administrator to oversee the office?

How the Office of Rural Affairs in the Small Business Administration is supposed to help you:

-  Apply for financial assistance available for small businesses in rural areas.
-  Keep track of annual statistics on rural areas, including the population, poverty, job creation and retention, unemployment, etc.
-  Provide information to industries, organizations, and State and local governments about assistance available to rural small businesses.
-  Improve the economic opportunities of rural citizens through programs administered by private organizations, educational institutions, and Federal, State, and local governments.
-  Work with the United States Tourism and Travel Administration to assist small businesses in rural areas with tourism promotion and development.